

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

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21. (Page 5)

The 1915 Houser Block (Property 22) continues the theme of geometric ornament with its use of limestone stringcourses, pilaster caps, and bracketed cornice used on a tapestry brick wall surface to create a subtle polychrome effect enhanced by the textural richness of panelled brick coursing to define such classical elements as panelled pilasters and the frieze of the entablature. An additional, exotic reference is seen in the facade's bay windows, whose bracketed canopies covered with clay tile roofs connote the Spanish Mission style which was then current.

Two religious structures, the 1913 World Episcopal Methodist Church (Property 23) and the 1928 St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Property 24), are worthy of inclusion here for their architectural merit as further local illustrations of this eclectic trend. The Methodist Church makes reference to English Gothic with its castellated, limestone-trimmed tapestry brick form in much the same way that the City Hall refers to slightly later English precedents; the Church is the ecclesiastic equivalent of the City Hall, and it is more successful by virtue of the religious associations inherent in the use of Gothic forms; certainly, like the City Hall, the design of the Methodist Church relies upon few accurate historic details for its success. By contrast, the Italian Gothic design of St. Joseph's Catholic Church completely re-creates both the form and all the details of its historic models with almost archeological accuracy, a tangible testimony not only to the perfection of architectural knowledge, but also to the communication and transportation systems whose existence in the community are implied as well.

In the simplified classical ornament of the U. S. Post Office (Property 25), designed for Garrett in 1936 by architect Louis A. Simon, and in the formal symmetry and cubic massing of the 1939 Gala Theater (Property 26) built by Alex Kalafat, the continuation of the dialogue between form and ornament can be seen in the more recent terms of the Art Deco style. In their incorporation of ornament into their respective forms, these structures represent a culmination of development away from the use of ornament as applique freely combined with conventionalized forms, and mark the local arrival of a later variety of architectural development.

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21. (Page 6)

As initially noted, the Garrett Historic District boundaries have been selected to define the area possessing the highest concentration of structures which have a high degree of architectural integrity and historical associations. Although areas composed primarily of greatly altered historic structures or later development have been excluded, the district nonetheless includes most of the town. This is explained by the fact that since the present population of Garrett is little more than it was during the peak years of railroad activity, the area has been overbuilt for many years since that time, and there has been little incentive for suburban development. Most new construction has taken the form of infill in the areas developed historically (Photos 9, 10), resulting in a city with few vacant areas inside the gridiron plan. Modern intrusions into the district area have thus taken several forms which directly affect historic structures. The most serious problem has been the demolition of large buildings brought on by the loss of their original uses, and the lack of new ways to utilize them; this is exemplified by the loss of the entire car shop complex (Photos 2, 3, 4). Another aspect of this problem is illustrated by the case in which the large Colonial Revival home of Dr. Thompson at King and Cowen Streets was replaced by a new building of the same approximate size, rather than making adaptive use of the house (Photo 11). More commonly, however, losses have been characterized by a change to less intensive use of a site, as in the case of the 1875 Garrett Hotel at Randolph and Keyser Streets, which was razed for a service station (Photo 12), and several instances of houses demolished to make way for commercial structures (Photos 13, 14). However, the most common form of intrusion upon the character of the district is the unsympathetic remodelling of the historic structures themselves. Some examples, such as the rear wing added to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, may gain their own historic value in time (Photo 15). Although many, including the removal of detail during the siding of houses or the remodeling of storefronts, may not be entirely reversible (Photos 16, 17), fortunately many more are of a more superficial nature, and can in time be remedied. That the existence of these intrusions has been noted, moreover, should not be cause to see them out of proportion to their context, which is that of a still largely homogeneous group of structures, few vacant lots, and more intrusions in terms of scale and material than of usage (Photos 18, 19). Such observations also are apart from the social homogeneity of the district, which is based upon the large number of families who share a common heritage of association with the railroad over several generations. Both the Garrett Centennial of 1975 and the U.S. Bicentennial the following year did much to renew awareness of these common bonds which define the character of Garrett, and these events have also led to renewed interest in the tangible record of the railroad community.

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21. (Page 7)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** In summary, the architectural examples to be found in the Garrett Historic District offer tangible evidence of the cultural and social development fostered by the railroad. They illustrate both the persistence of certain plan and form arrangements in a rural community, the role of the railroad as an importer of fashions through which these forms were kept of current appearance, and the resulting microcosm of the larger society which such communication created.

**ACREAGE:** Approximately 283 acres.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The following lands and plats in the city of Garrett, Indiana:

All land South of Railroad Street and North of Quincy Street between extensions of Hamsher and Britton Streets;

Blocks 15 thru 33 of the Original Plat;

Blocks 34 thru 58 of Cowen's First Addition;

Blocks 59 thru 80 of Keyser's First Addition;

Blocks 1 thru 6 of South Park Addition;

All of Vanada's Addition;

All of Wells' First Addition;

All of Wells' Second Addition;

Lots 1 thru 8 of Hill's Addition;

Blocks 4 thru 9 of Thomas' South Addition.

**QUADRANGLE SHEET:** Garrett

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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21. (Page 8)

For the most part, the boundaries of the Garrett Historic District do not include modern intrusions into the historic fabric of the town. The principal forms of intrusion within the district are the modernizations which the historic structures themselves have undergone in recent years. Because the population of the present town is little different than that of the peak years of the car shops, the town has been overbuilt for many years, and there has been little incentive for new construction. A plenitude of vacant land on the fringes of the town, particularly on the East towards Auburn, has absorbed the development of suburban housing which took place after World War II. The most significant modern intrusion within the district was the demolition of the 1875 Garrett Hotel at the Southeast corner of Randolph and Keyser Streets in the late 1960's for the construction of a gas station. Another form of intrusion has been the complete demolition of the B & O car shop structures, which began in the late Fifties and was culminated in 1968 by demolition of the 1875 roundhouse, which was the first permanent structure associated with the development of the shops. Today only the passenger depot, freight house, and knocker shops remain.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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21. (Page 9 ) Garrett Historic District

UTM References: An irregular polygon defined by the following points:

- A. 16/655330/4579465
- B. 16/656470/4579495
- C. 16/656495/4578700
- D. 16/656290/4578690
- E. 16/656305/4578390
- F. 16/656045/4578385
- G. 16/656050/4578155
- H. 16/655880/4578155
- I. 16/655880/4578205
- J. 16/655850/4578210
- K. 16/655840/4578460
- L. 16/655360/4578450

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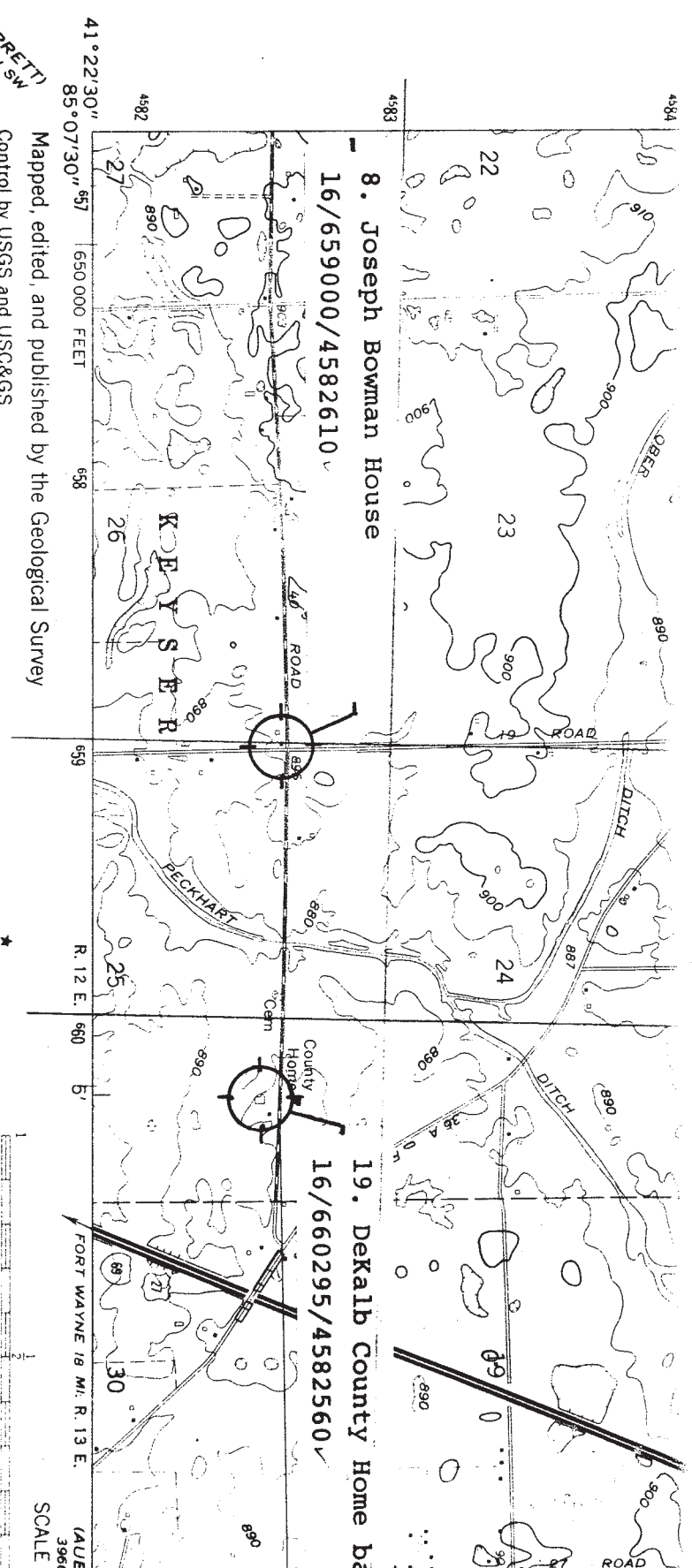
CONTINUATION SHEET

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All photographs of individual properties and properties within the Garrett Historic District, as well as Photos 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were taken in November, 1979, by Kenneth F. Smith; the negatives of these photographs are available at KFS Studios, 113 North Randolph Street, Garrett, Indiana, 46738.

Photographs 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 were taken in June, 1982, by Craig Leonard; the negatives of these photographs are available at 521 West Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, 46714.





(GARRETT)  
3986 1 SW

41°22'30"  
85°07'30"

657 658 659  
650 000 FEET

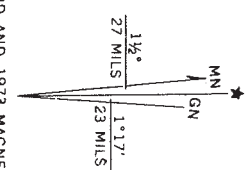
8. Joseph Bowman House  
16/659000/4582610

19. Dekalb County Home  
16/660295/4582560

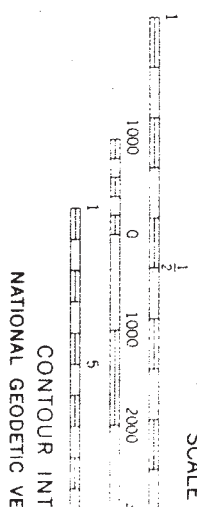
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and US&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1951. Topography by planetable surveys 1957  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Indiana coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Depth curves and soundings compiled from USGS-Indiana Department of Natural Resources lake charts  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

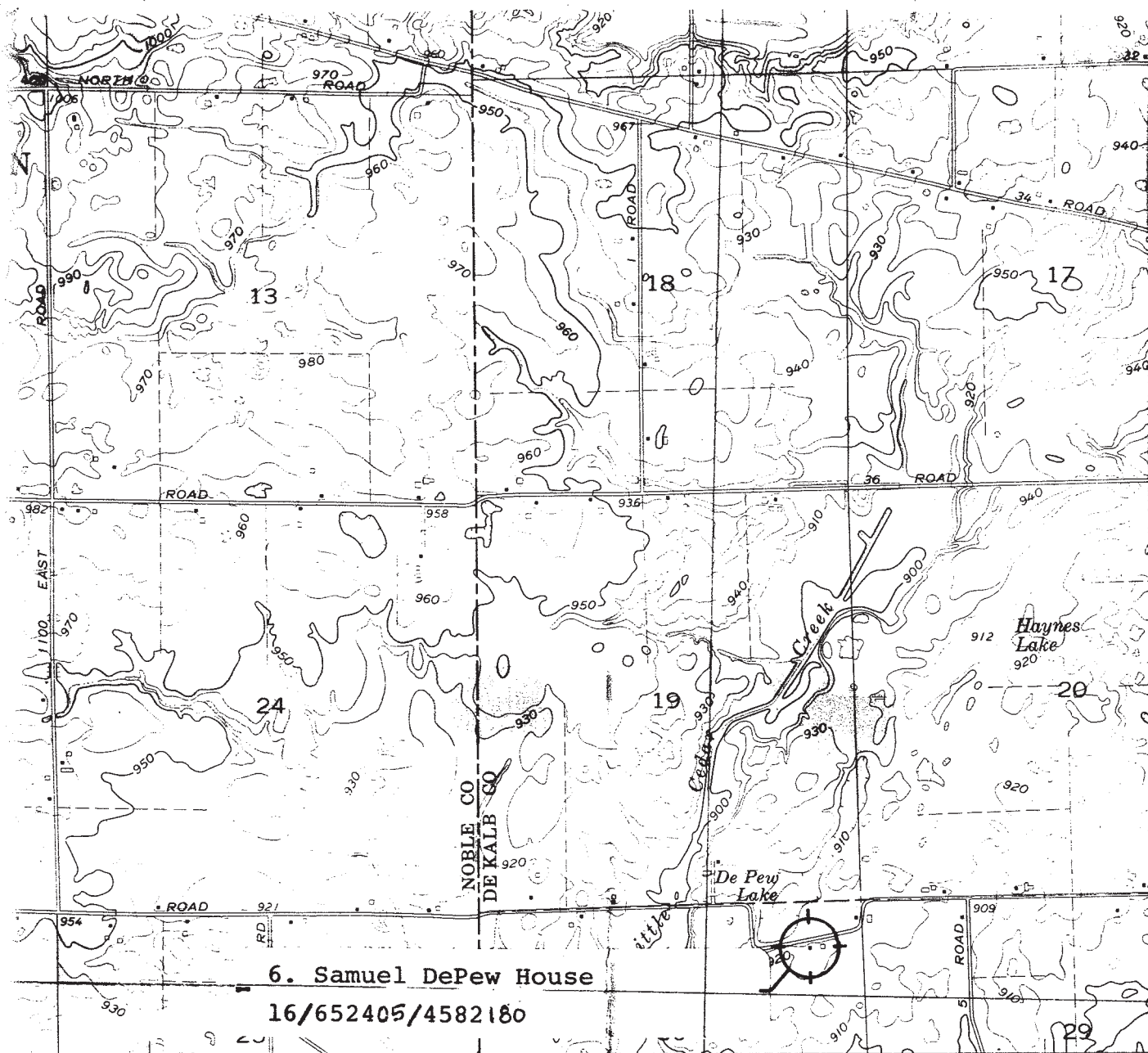


SCALE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL  
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS







6. Samuel DePew House

16/652405/4582180

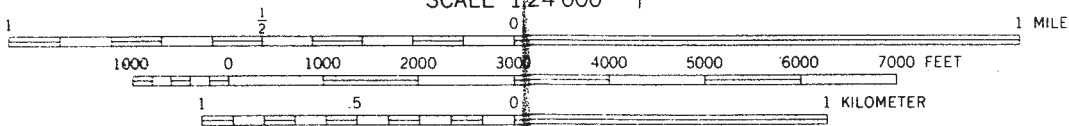
12°30" 650

R. 11 E. R. 12 E. (GARRETT)  
3966 ASW

652

653 10'

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

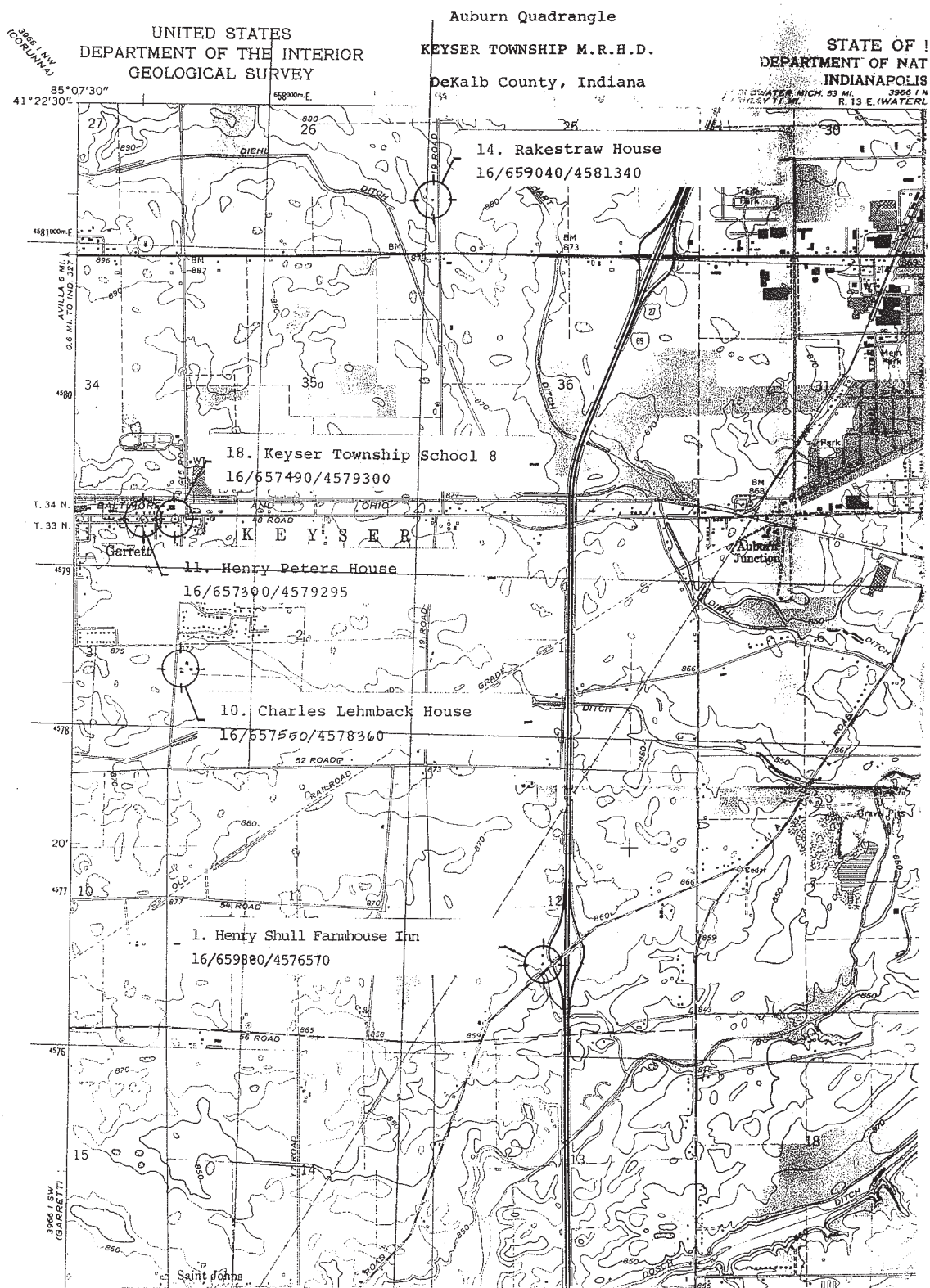
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

1"=12'  
21 MILS

MAGNETIC NORTH  
CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





3956' 1 NW  
(COR. 1/4 NW)

85° 07' 30"  
41° 22' 30"

4581000m E  
0.6 MI. TO IND. 327  
AVILLA & MI.

T. 34 N.  
T. 33 N.

4579

4578

20'

4577

4576

3956' 1 SW  
(COR. 1/4 SW)

Auburn Quadrangle

KEYSER TOWNSHIP M.R.H.D.

DeKalb County, Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIANAPOLIS  
3956' 1 N  
R. 13 E. (WATERL.)

14. Rakestraw House  
16/659040/4581340

18. Keyser Township School 8  
16/657490/4579300

11. Henry Peters House  
16/657300/4579295

10. Charles Lehmbach House  
16/657550/4578360

1. Henry Shull Farmhouse Inn  
16/659880/4576570

Saint Johns





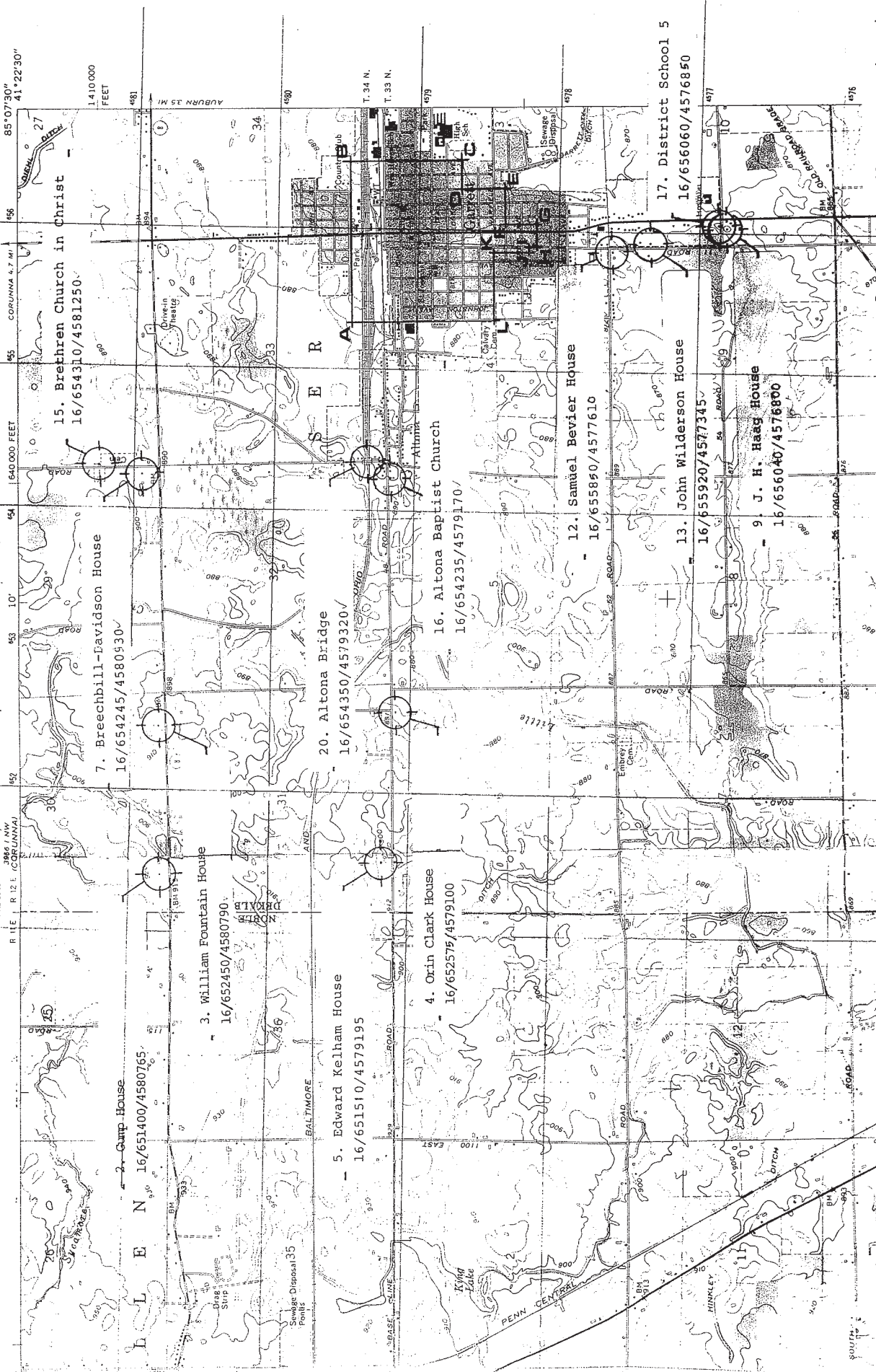
## DeKalb County, Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

GARRETT QUADRANGLE

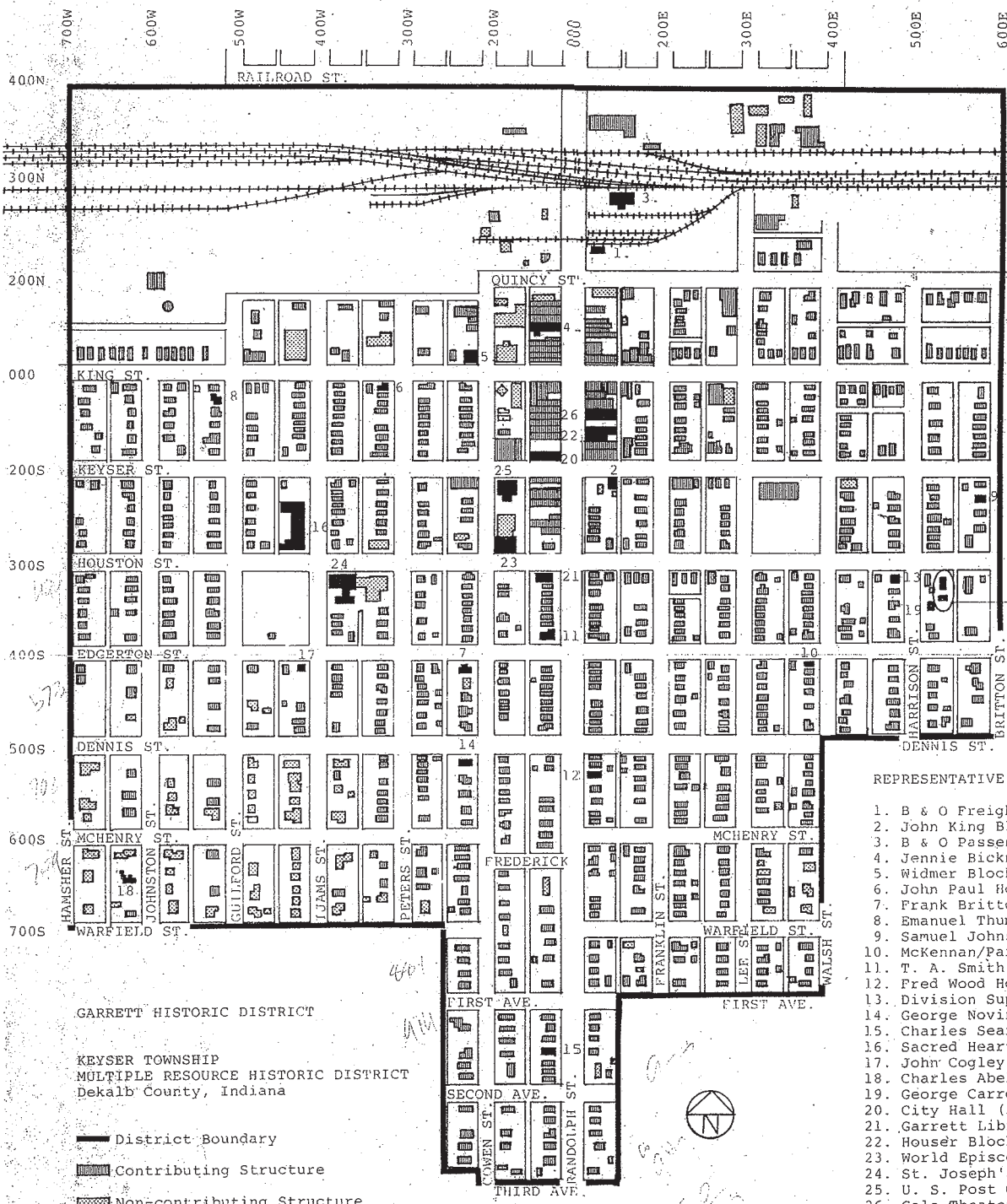
INDIANA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3966 1 NE  
(WATERLOO)





Final



Mountz Residence  
National Register  
September 11, 1979

REPRESENTATIVE PROPERTIES

1. B & O Freighthouse (1875)
2. John King Block (1875)
3. B & O Passenger Depot (1876)
4. Jennie Bicknell Block (1880)
5. Widmer Block (1899)
6. John Paul House (1880)
7. Frank Britton House (1884)
8. Emanuel Thumma House (1886)
9. Samuel Johnston House (1907)
10. McKennan/Parks House (1910)
11. T. A. Smith House (1899)
12. Fred Wood House (1891)
13. Division Superintendent's House (1899)
14. George Novinger House (1896)
15. Charles Searfoss House (1912)
16. Sacred Heart Hospital (1902)
17. John Cogley House (1910)
18. Charles Abell House (1913)
19. George Carroll House (1922)
20. City Hall (1913)
21. Garrett Library (1914)
22. Houser Block (1915)
23. World Episcopal Methodist Church (1913)
24. St. Joseph's Catholic Church (1928)
25. U. S. Post Office (1936)
26. Gala Theater (1939)

GARRETT HISTORIC DISTRICT

KEYSER TOWNSHIP  
MULTIPLE RESOURCE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Dekalb County, Indiana

- District Boundary
- ▨ Contributing Structure
- ▩ Non-contributing Structure
- Representative Property

